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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Original): A method for generating an ultrashort pulse, comprising the steps of:  
converting a laser pulse once into a laser pulse having another wavelength;  
reconverting the laser pulse having another wavelength into a laser pulse having an initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and  
amplifying the pulse by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.

2 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,  
wherein the laser is an excimer laser.

3 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 2,  
wherein the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by  
performing stimulated Raman scattering; and  
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed by  
performing four-wave mixing.

4 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,  
wherein the amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.

5 (Currently Amended): An ultrashort pulse generating apparatus, comprising:  
a laser;  
a ( $\lambda/4$ )-wavelength plate; and  
a polarizer, wherein

a laser pulse is once converted into a laser pulse having another wavelength;  
the laser pulse having another wavelength is reconverted into a laser pulse having an  
initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and  
the pulse is amplified by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.

6 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
laser is an excimer laser.

7 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by performing  
stimulated Raman scattering; and  
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed by  
performing four-wave mixing.

8 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.